

This posting deals with one of the communities most valuable and precious commodities our “TEEN DRIVERS”. I have listed some useful information for both parents and teens on the laws pertaining to Indiana’s graduated license law, and safe driving tips for teens which has been provided by the Governor’s Council on Impaired and Dangerous Driving. Some of the laws concerning graduated drivers license changed in 2009 and some further changes will take effect in July 2010.

As spring approaches and we see more motorist, bicycles, and pedestrians on the roadways it would be a good time for parents to take a moment and talk to your young drivers about the tremendous responsibility that comes with driving and to cover not only some of the rules of the road but also the rules that you have set out for what you expect in your home for our young drivers.

Let’s work together to make this a safe and happy time in our children’s lives.

Chris Leroux  
Captain of Operations  
West Lafayette PD

# Indiana’s Graduated Driver’s License Law

## What Teens Should Know

Effective July 1, 2009

**Cell Phones & Texting:**  
Persons under 18 are prohibited from using any telecommunications device while operating a vehicle—except for making emergency 9-1-1 calls.

**Nighttime Driving Restrictions:**  
Drivers with a probationary license may not drive between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. for the first 180 days they drive. After 180 days, you cannot drive Sun.—Thurs., 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. and Fri.—Sat., 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. until age 18. Exceptions include work, school or church related functions.

### Learner’s Permit

Effective July 1, 2009

**Minimum Age Requirements:**

- ▶ 15 years with driver education
- ▶ 16 years without driver education

Effective July 1, 2010

**Minimum Age Requirements:**

- ▶ 15 years 180 days with driver education

### Probationary License

Effective July 1, 2009

**Minimum Age Requirements:**

- ▶ 16 years 30 days with driver education
- ▶ 16 years 180 days without driver education

**Mandatory Holding Period of Learner Permit:**  
60 days

Effective July 1, 2010

**Minimum Age Requirements:**

- ▶ 16 years 180 days with driver education
- ▶ 16 years 270 days without driver education

**Mandatory Holding Period of Learner Permit:**  
180 days

**Minimum Supervised Driving:** 50 hours of supervised practice (10 hours must be at night) with a certified driving instructor/licensed driver who is at least 25 years old or the individual’s spouse who is at least 21 years old.

### Unrestricted License at Age 18

For more information, visit [www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji)

# Safe Driving Tips For Teens

Each year, hundreds of teens are killed in traffic-related collisions. Underage drinking is illegal and getting behind the wheel impaired can lead to deadly consequences. Be a winner. Stay sober!

## Sobriety Wins Alcohol Kills

## Safety Text Dictionary

BRB – “Be Responsible & Buckle”  
LMAO – “Limit Music & Occupants”  
WTH – “What’s the Hurry?”

IDTS – “Inattentive Driving= Teen Statistic”  
IDK – “Impaired Driving Kills”  
MYOB – “Make Your Occupants Buckle”

## Every Seat. Every Trip. Every Time.


## Seat Belts Save Lives

In an effort to encourage young drivers to wear their seat belts, the Governor’s Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving urges teens to think ahead and buckle up. Studies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration have shown that wearing a seat belt increases your chances of survival by 45 percent. Not to mention, wearing a seat belt is the law in Indiana. Remember to buckle up every seat, every trip, every time.

## Aggressive Driving

You are driving aggressively if you:

- Follow too closely
- Unsafely stop or slow down
- Unnecessarily use a horn
- Fail to yield
- Fail to obey a traffic signal
- Drive at an unsafe speed
- Intentionally harass or intimidate someone in another vehicle
- Repeatedly flash your headlights
- Change lanes abruptly



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& DANGEROUS  
DRIVING

For resources and more safety information, visit [www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji).